

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 28, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

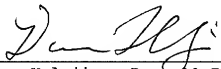
In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 11, 19, 18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 11, 19, 18 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to include the features of allowable claims 11, 16 and 18 which have been canceled without prejudice, without including certain features that are believed to be not necessary for patentability. In addition, claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form without including certain features that are believed to be not necessary for patentability. Further, independent claim 10 has been amended to include feature of allowable claim 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 5, 9-10 and 20 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-8, 12-15, 17 and 19 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1, 5 and 9 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded. And in particular, no Official Notices are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101